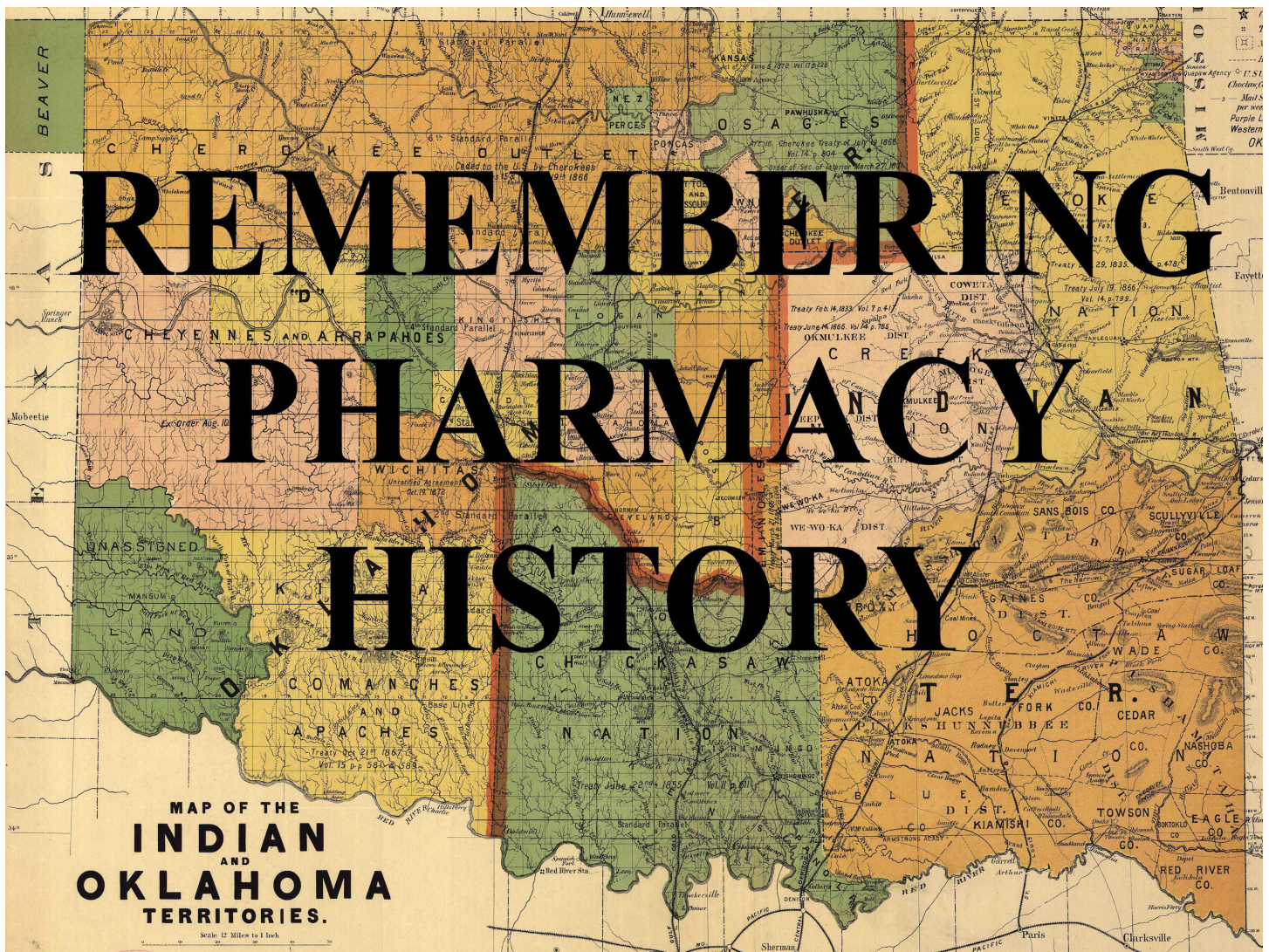


OKPharmacy E-Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 9

2011

PHARMACY FAMILIES OF OKLAHOMA The Beegle Family



*Cover Logo based on an
1892 map of Indian and
Oklahoma Territories in the
United States Library of
Congress.*

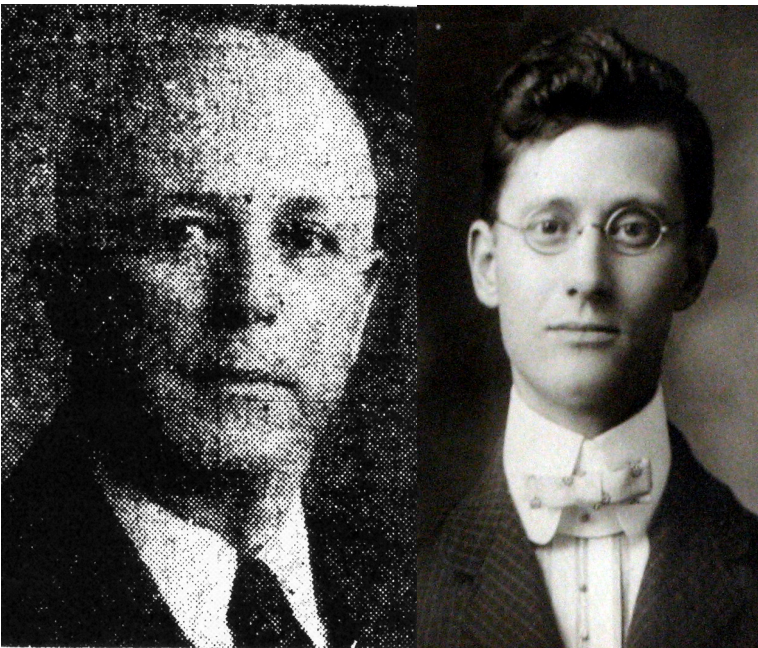
PHARMACY FAMILIES OF OKLAHOMA

The Beegle Family

Carl K. Buckner
The University of Oklahoma
College of Pharmacy

John Herbert “Bert” Beegle and Andrew “Andy” Trimper Beegle

The story of the Beegle family in Oklahoma begins with the September 16, 1893, run for land in the Cherokee Outlet, later to be a part of Oklahoma Territory and the state of Oklahoma. Adam Henry and Elizabeth (Crotzer) Beegle were farming in Kingman County, Kansas, when Adam and his oldest son, Bert, made the run by wagon to a new town that would later become Alva, Woods County, Oklahoma. A younger son, Andy, came to Alva by train. Adam opened a restaurant in Alva and soon brought the rest of the family from Kansas.



*John Herbert Beegle. From
The Alva Review-Courier,
January 25, 1944.*

*Andrew Trimper Beegle.
From The Cherokee Strip
Museum, Alva, Oklahoma.*

Adam and Elizabeth Beegle were both born in Pennsylvania and moved to Illinois before the American Civil War. They were married on March 25, 1862, in Mt. Carroll, Carroll County, Illinois. Two daughters, Annetta (Nettie) and Della were born in Illinois before the family moved to Jefferson County, Kansas. Bert was born in Valley Falls of that county on September 4, 1866. In 1870, the Beegle family was living near Dayton, Cass County, Missouri, where a daughter, Katherine, and son, Daniel Curtis, were born. Within a year, the family moved to a farm near Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, where Andy was born on October 19, 1872. Two more daughters, Maude and Ella, were born in Kingman before 1880. Daniel Curtis Beegle died in Kansas at the age of 10 years.

Of the two surviving sons of Adam and Elizabeth Beegle, Andy was the first to become interested in pharmacy. He worked in the Alva drug store of John Weatherford Monfort while

Bert helped with the family restaurant business. Andy obtained the bulk of his early drug store experiences at Monfort's and, on October 6, 1896, passed the pharmacy examination given in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy issued Andy pharmacist certificate number 196.

Andy moved to Blackwell after passing the board examination, where he entered into a partnership with another pharmacist, Benjamin F. Loomis. The business was known as the L & B Drug Company. Ben Loomis moved to Arkansas before 1910 and Andy, in 1903, purchased a drug store in Lamont, Grant County, Oklahoma Territory. This was the same year in which Andy married Anna Gertrude Eversole, the couple making their first home in Lamont.

Meanwhile, Bert, who had married Sarah Belle Hyatt in 1896, also developed an interest in pharmacy. After



Exterior of Beegle Drug in Lamont. From OPhA files.



Lamont Main Street, early 1900s. Beegle Drug is the fourth store from the left side of the picture. From the author's collection.



View of interior of the Beagle Brother's Owl Drug Store, Alva, 1915. Bert and Andy standing at left, front and back, respectively. From The Cherokee Strip Museum, Alva, Oklahoma.

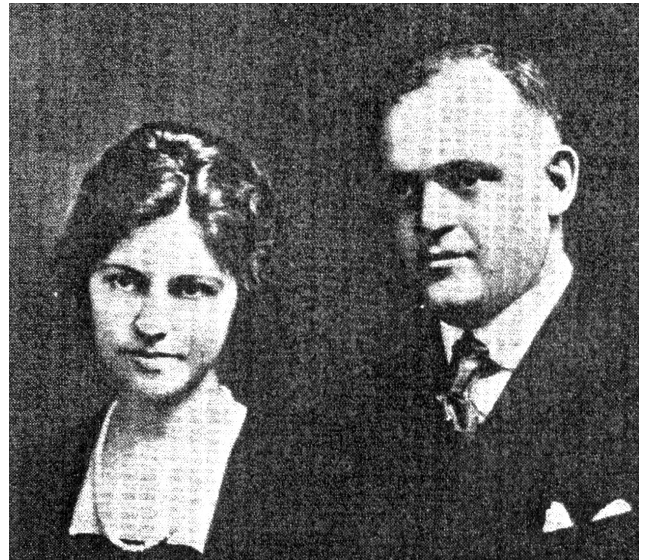
Adam decided to get out of the restaurant business in Alva, Bert started working in the Monfort Drug Store. He spent about a year working at Monfort's and another two years working at the Alva drug store of Louis Schuhmacher. In 1905, Bert moved to Lamont to work for brother Andy. In September of 1906, Bert graduated from the ERA course in pharmacy offered by The Pharmaceutical Era, a pharmacy trade journal based in New York. His ERA diploma number was 4802. On January 8, 1907, Bert passed the pharmacy licensure examination in Guthrie on his second attempt and was issued pharmacist certificate number 847 by the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy. At statehood, Bert was given certificate number 98 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. Andy was not given a number at that time since the required fee was not recorded by the board. In December of 1933, Andy paid a one dollar fee to receive Oklahoma pharmacist certificate number 4785.

In the early months of 1907, Bert and Andy purchased the Hess & Gamble Drug Store at Alva and changed the name to the Owl Drug Store. The store was also commonly referred to as the Beagle Brothers Drug Store. Bert moved back to Alva to manage the store there while Andy remained for a few years in Lamont.

In 1911, Andy sold the Beagle Drug Store in Lamont to Harry Courtney. The store was called the Courtney Drug Store until Harry sold it in 1957 to Tony Almond. After selling the Lamont store, Andy moved to Alva to work with brother Bert in their Owl Drug Store.

Nettie, the oldest child of Adam and Elizabeth Beegle, married one of her cousins, Albert Lloyd Beegle, and moved to Nebraska. One of their children, Harry Beegle, born on September 12, 1894, in Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska, developed an interest in pharmacy. He graduated from Grand Island High School in May of 1914 and started pharmacy studies at Creighton University in Omaha. After graduating from Creighton, Harry worked in North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, until 1918. In May of 1918, Harry passed the pharmacy examination and was issued certificate number 4940 by the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy. In October of 1919, after spending a few months in the United States Army and working in a pharmacy in North Platte, Harry moved to Beaver, Beaver County, Oklahoma.

Harry Beegle was given an opportunity by a Beaver physician, Lindsey Lowder Long, to become a drug



Harry and Corean (Drum) Beegle. From The Jones and Plummer Trail Museum, Beaver, Oklahoma.



Andy Beegle on far right with a group of Alva leaders. Another Alva pharmacist in the picture is Edwin Van Antwerp, standing second from left. From The Cherokee Strip Museum, Alva, Oklahoma.



Lindsey Lowder and Maude (Beegle) Long. From The Jones and Plummer Trail Museum, Beaver, Oklahoma.

OKPharmacy E-Newsletter, Volume 1, No. 9, 2011 store owner. Lindsey Long had married Maude, one of the daughters of Adam and Elizabeth Beegle, in Alva in 1899 and the couple moved to Beaver in 1906. Lindsey and Maude asked Harry, a licensed pharmacist, to come to Beaver to work in the drug store. On December 15, 1920, the year after he moved to Beaver, Harry married Corean Drum, who had come to Beaver with her parents in 1901. After Harry decided to stay in Beaver, he filed papers with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy to reciprocate his pharmacy license from Nebraska to Oklahoma. Consequently, in April of 1920, Harry was issued pharmacist certificate number 3249 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.



Students and faculty from The University of Oklahoma (OU) School of Pharmacy on the steps of the pharmacy building in Norman, ca. 1930s. Ralph Allison Beegle is sitting in the center of the middle row between David Byars Ray Johnson, Dean, on his right and Ralph David Bienfang on his left. From OU College of Pharmacy.



Students and faculty from the OU School of Pharmacy visiting the Alexander Wholesale Drug Company in Oklahoma City, mid-1930s. Ralph Allison Beegle is standing at the end of the first row on the far right of the picture. From OU College of Pharmacy.

The partnership between Harry Beegle and Lindsey Long established the L & B Drug Store in Beaver. In 1929, Harry became the sole proprietor and renamed it the Beegle Drug Store. He continued to manage the store until he died in 1954. Corean died in Beaver in 1966 and she is buried beside Harry in the Beaver Cemetery.

Ralph Allison Beegle, a son of Bert Beegle and a cousin of Harry Beegle, also became a pharmacist. He was born in Alva on May 11, 1898, and worked in Beegle Drug from an early age. Ralph graduated from the School of Pharmacy at The University of Oklahoma (OU), receiving diplomas as a Pharmaceutical Graduate (Ph.G.), a Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph.C.), and a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in the early 1920s. In July of 1921, Ralph passed the pharmacy examination in Oklahoma City and was issued pharmacist certificate number 3441 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.

In July of 1926, Ralph went into partnership with his father, Bert, in purchasing the Liberty Drug Store #2 in Chickasha, Grady County, Oklahoma, from Leroy Jones and Lucien Schooling. They sold the store to W. C. Boothe and Sons in August of 1928, just before Ralph started his teaching career as an Assistant Professor of Commercial Pharmacy at OU. That was the year that he established the model pharmacy for the School of Pharmacy. Ralph also conducted a course in commercial pharmacy for practicing pharmacists (an early example of continuing pharmacy education in Oklahoma) for a few years while on the OU faculty. In 1936, he obtained a Master of Science degree from the University of Colorado. Ralph taught at OU until the following year when he moved to Arkansas, continuing to present his merchandising course for pharmacists.

Bert and Andy were partners in the Owl Drug Store in Alva until Bert died on January 25, 1944. In the following year, Andy sold a part interest in the store to Roy Wood, a pharmacist who had worked there for almost twenty years. After Andy died on November 23, 1951, Roy became sole owner. Bert and Andy are buried in the Alva Municipal Cemetery beside their respective wives, Sarah Belle, who died on December 18, 1959, and Anna Gertrude, who died on April 22, 1969. Their parents, Adam and Elizabeth Beegle, are also buried there, having died in Alva on June 10, 1909, and December 25, 1911, respectively.

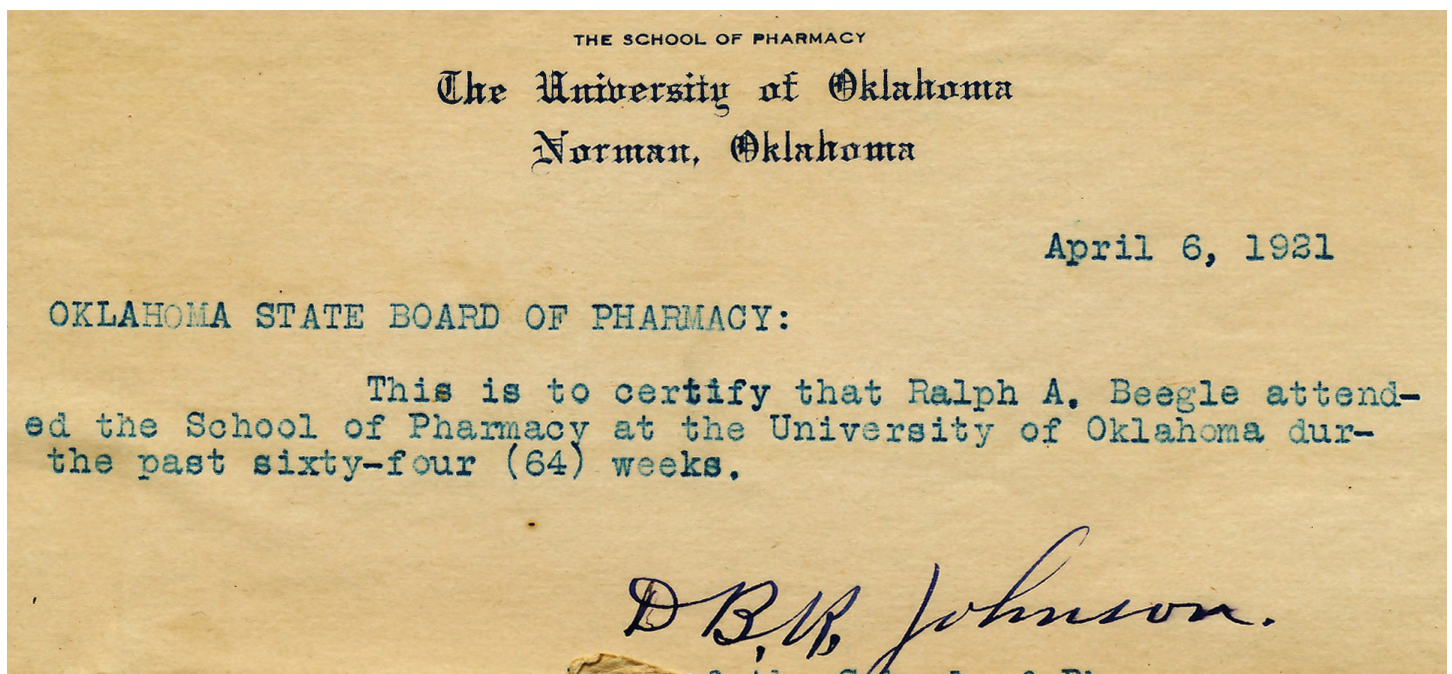
The Beegle family of pioneering pharmacists in Oklahoma had influence in many areas of life in Oklahoma Territory and the state of Oklahoma. Adam helped start the Methodist Church in Alva by holding meetings in his restaurant as early as October of 1893. He and his family were charter members of the church. Bert and Andy were members of the Alva Kiwanis Club and active participants in many worthwhile community organizations. Andy was involved with the formation of the Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children, later the Oklahoma Easter Seal Society, and was inducted as a life member in 1940.

Acknowledgements

The author expresses appreciation for support to Julie O'Reilly of The Jones and Plummer Trail Museum in Beaver, Oklahoma, to Beth Smith of The Cherokee Strip Museum in Alva, Oklahoma, and to Mark and Pam Ekiss of The Frontier Drug Store Museum in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Also, thanks to Jan Davis, Carol Guilliams, Linda Raulston, Linda Colbert, and Colleen Greene, professionals in the Archives and Records Division at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) in Oklahoma City, for their help.

Bibliographic

Information and images for these biographies were collected from many sources, including files at the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA) office in Oklahoma City as well as various issues of Oklahoma Pharmacist, Meyer Brothers Druggist, Pharmaceutical Era, The Midwestern Druggist, Southern Pharmaceutical Journal, and newspapers from Oklahoma City, Beaver, Blackwell, and Alva, Oklahoma. Biographical information was also found in Beaver County Historical Society, A History of Beaver County, Volumes 1 and 2. (Beaver, Beaver County Historical Society, 1970-71): 51, 331-332, 497; Cherokee Strip Volunteer League, Pioneer Footprints Across Woods County. (Alva, Cherokee Strip Volunteer League, 1976): 53-54; and Rex Francis Harlow and Victor Emmanuel Harlow, Makers of Government in Oklahoma. (Oklahoma City, Harlow Publishing Company, 1930): 831. United States census records have provided valuable family-related data. The ERA and Hayes Druggists directories have been used as aids to trace pharmacy locations in Oklahoma. Especially beneficial for biographical information have been pharmacist applications for licensure as well as records of the Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma State Boards of Pharmacy located in the Archives and Records Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL).



Letter from Dean Johnson of the OU School of Pharmacy to the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy certifying attendance by Ralph Beegle for licensure purposes. From ODL files.

L. & B. DRUG & JEWELRY COMPANY

BEAVER, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 5-1920

Mr. J. W. Monfort:-
Alva, Okla.,

Dear Mr. Monfort:-

Please find inclosed check for \$15⁰⁰, and also my papers, which I received Saturday from head quarters, and hope that they are O.K. this time.

According to instructions I have made check payable to Mr. Jarrett.

Thanking you very much for favors shown to me, & hoping that you have a very prosperous & Happy New Year - with kindest regards

I remain Sincerely

Harry Beegle

Regards to my Uncles when you see them.

Letter from Harry Beegle to J. W. Monfort, treasurer of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy, for purposes of obtaining a license to practice pharmacy in Oklahoma. The letter also sends regards to Harry's pharmacist uncles in Alva. From ODL files.